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File Code: 3420 **Date:** September 26, 2007
Route To:
Subject: Bark Beetle Activity in Recreation Sites on the Lakeside RD

To: District Ranger, Lakeside RD

On September 19, 2007, I traveled to the Lakeside Ranger District, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (NFs) to evaluate developed recreation sites for bark beetle activity. I describe in this report what bark beetle activity was observed in these areas and make recommendations to minimize bark beetle impacts in the future.

My evaluations of the recreation sites consisted of walkthrough surveys looking for fading trees, pitch tubes, and boring dust. It is important to note that a more intensive survey may find additional infested trees and additional trees may have become infested after my survey was completed. Therefore, the numbers of infested trees reported here should not be considered absolute.

Lakeside Campground – Only one ponderosa pine attacked by western pine beetle was found in the campground. This tree had a broken top and was attacked during the summer of 2007.

Scott Reservoir Campground – No current bark beetle activity was observed at this recreation site.

Fool Hollow Lake – I did not find any ponderosa pine attacked by bark beetles within the immediate vicinity of the camping or day use sites. Approximately nine trees had been attacked by western pine beetle and pine engraver beetles (*Ips* species) near the western and southern boundaries of the Park. Many of these trees were large yellow pines that had been struck by lightning (***Figure 1***).

Lewis Group Area – No current bark beetle activity was observed within the boundaries of this recreation site.

Pinedale Work Center – No current bark beetle activity was observed at this administrative site.

Figure 1. Ponderosa pine struck by lightning and subsequently attacked by western pine beetle at Fool Hollow Park.

Recommendations

The District has completed thinning treatments at many of the recreation and administrative sites. These treatments have improved growing conditions for residual trees and will reduce the long-term susceptibility of these areas to bark beetle attack. To provide short-term protection against

bark beetle attack, Forest Health Protection funds were used to apply single tree protection treatments (preventative sprays) on selected high-value trees from 2003 – 2006.

Based on the current low level of bark beetle activity within the immediate area of most developed recreation sites on the Lakeside RD, spraying of high value trees is not necessary in 2008. In the short-term, prompt removal of currently infested trees will help to reduce the immediate local population of beetles. It is recommended that the infested trees be removed yet this winter before the brood completes their development and adult beetles emerge in the spring. Felling of infested trees will not kill developing brood; infested trees must either be removed from the site or treated on site.

If you have any questions regarding my assessment of current bark beetle activity or my recommendations, please let me know. I can be reached at (928) 556-2074.

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